

Am. Essay
on
Homoeopathy
Respectfully Submitted to the
Faculty
of the
Homoeopathic Medical College
of
Pennsylvania

On the first day of February
One thousand eight hundred & fifty seven

by
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of
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Examined by Dr. Hake

"The perfection of a cure consists in restoring health in a prompt and permanent manner, in removing and annihilating disease by the shortest, safest and most certain means, upon principles that are above plain and intelligible."

Hahnemanns Org. S. 2.

Homoeopathy

It is not my intention in this imperfect paper to enter into any length of discussion as to the comparative merits of either system of practice.

Suffice it to say my object is wholly of a different character, my aim being to show

in as few words as possible the reason why after an allopathic practice of ten years, I now give the preference to Homoeopathy.

Since the first day I entered upon my professional career my object has been to fulfil the great end of the true physician. to save life & to alleviate suffering.

I quit the halls of my venerable Alma Mater, having accomplished my course, with that long & earnestly looked for parchment, bearing the noble names of Valentine Mott Patterson. Revere. Daine. Draper. & Bedford.

I went forth armed with a pana-

- ced. for every disease - "conquering
& to conquer". Now shall I forge
the quantities of Materia Medica
which I had gathered from the broad
and boundless Allopathic fields,
ready for use at a moment's warn-
-ing, and began practice filled
with high hopes in anticipation of
the future. Hopes which to the
Allopaths are - seldom fulfilled

I soon obtained my
share of practice, and it is not vain
in me to say, but with success -
which brought me an increase of
business, with it I soon began to
see that the system of instruction
through which I had just passed -

lacked. Convincing, the law. to
make. this instructions valuable,
as a positive science.

Now. was it possible. for me. to let
any condition, at the end of
the first year. I found. my beau-
tiful fancied theories of the nature
of disease. & the action of medicines
empty. nothing more. a convincing name
devoid of meaning. and of no prac-
tical utility

At the end of the second year. my
condition seemed. even more hopeless
and in the third year. found myself
lost. - lost in the infinite labyrinth
of "Contraria Contrariis" "That Clough
of despair", however. I continued

my course, too proud to look
to any other corner for light, I
groined in the dark.

Now after we have sat down and
in speaking on these matters with
my Allopathic brethren, have so
confessed mutually the superior
success of the Homoeopathy, and
with us the utter uncertainty of
the practice of medicine, our ig-
norance of the true action of the very
simplest remedial agent. Feel-
ing the force of Dr Johnson's re-
mark, when asked what a Phys-
ician was. replied "one who
pours physic of which he knows
little into a body of which he knows

less. . . The best advocacy of any
our System is its success. This has
been the grand-prop to Homoeopathy
It is by its success that it has
steadily & rapidly advanced, evol-
ving itself from its original origin
conquering the apathy of the public, a-
wakeing the jealousy of the pro-
fessors, winning adherents and ef-
fecting astonishing reforms. and
although a system still in its infan-
cy it has in the face of the most
determined opposition gained hosts
of adherents who are ever ready
to fight her battles and defend her
spotless character.

Sydenham in his "Opera-Magna"

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says that "Medicine can alone be
perfected by the discovery of Spe-
cifics."

This - the Philosophers Stone is now
within our grasp. That Stone is Hom-
oeopathy. because the doctrine of
Specifics is simply the doctrine
of Homoeopathy. It not only dis-
covers Specifics but also gives
a law for their universal applica-
tion. & it is the first successful
generalization of the Materia Med-
ica under the most comprehensive
principle, Similia Similibus Curan-
tur, a simple and universal law
founded upon pure induction, not
invented but discovered.

Let us examine you a few moments into the different modes in which medicine may be applied. viz. allopathically & Homoeopathically.

Black. in his treatise on principles & practice of Homoeopathy says. The term allopathy as a general term is applicable to the present prevailing system of medicine, but as ordinary practice owes much of its success to the homoeopathicity of the means such cases may be separated. We intend now to discuss the purely allopathic practice.

Contraria Contrariis Curantur, is the oldest & most natural therapeutical indication. You - no stim. leads

us when cold. to warm. ourselves
when warm to cool. ourselves. This
has led to the employment of purg-
atives in constipation. of astring-
ents in diarrhoea. of refriger-
ants in fevers. of sedatives in pain
of blood. letting in excited states
of the system.

But. this practice is natural in the-
ory is not only unsuccessful. but
even dangerous.

If we follow nature as our guide
we find no example of dissimilar
diseases curing each other reciproc-
ally but we observe. that the one
only supersedes the other. except in
cases where they blend together.

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which rarely occurs in acute dis-
eases.

Some one has remarked "that allo-
pathic practice may in many cases
palliate, but it remedies direct-
ly" it may relieve but always
at the expense of the constitution of
the patient.

Take for example a case illustra-
tive one which may be met with -
as a daily occurrence in practice.

A patient laboring under some vio-
lent Neuralgic affection. Small dos-
es of Opium or some of its preparations
are administered - The pain is re-
lieved, but each day it returns, the
dose must be repeated day after

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day, it is not only repeated, but increased. What is the consequence?

True the suffering may be relieved but the drug in addition to removing pain acts otherwise - it disorders & deranges the digested organs - causing head-ache - constipation &c rendering the patient miserable, so much so. That relief is far from being equivocal to the disordered health.

Again in habitual constipation a purgative is administered, the bowels are opened as a primary effect. but counteraction succeeds & is superadded to the existing constipation, the dose is repeated, increased, &c. long we have

following, in the train haemorrhoids
dyspepsia and a host of other ills -
I will now say a few words in re-
gard to blood letting. That "Emis-
sion" to the Allopaths

Blood letting is objectionable on the
grounds - 1st of its - unsuccessfulness
on the one hand. & on the other the
danger - as compared with the em-
ployment of Specific Remedies, - for
it is an indirect and only palliative
mode of treatment for it only re-
lieves the urgency of the symptoms
but does not effect a radical
cure.

If inflammation be a cause ap-
plied to a series of symptoms

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having for their primary cause "an abnormal condition of the vitality of the vessels of contents" as is believed by many, it is surely only palliative treatment. If blood is removed in order to relieve the vessels, whether directly or indirectly, as is more probable, by depressing the action of the heart. Why attack this increase of the pulse, this torpor of the capillaries, this symptom of symptoms, in preference to removing the cause by a specific remedy. It is defective as a means for although its primary effect is to reduce suddenly the action of the heart, its secondary one, which even

follows is a state of reaction a great increase of vascular action, this must necessarily be counteracted by some other means. It is too often mistaken for the natural progress of the disease.

The want of success which follows blood letting, may be fully or partly illustrated in persons being bled for a tendency of blood to the head. The immediate disagreeable symptoms are relieved, but the so called tendency soon returns. The individual is bled periodically, but with only temporary relief for the cause of the disease has never been attacked. It is in just such cases.

that the superiority of Homoeopathic treatment is witnessed in opposition to that merely palliative.

The employment of minute doses in Homoeopathy is practice is the greatest stumbling block to allopathy. it is seeming, by so contrary to reasoning, deduced from what has been the dogmas of the Fathers of Medicine from the early ages to the present moment and in fact I may add, that it is a subject, not for captious arguments - but for practical illustration. Nothing else can prove its truth. Nothing else is required - This great mystery has deterred,

many, who might otherwise have been inclined to examine the subject.

It must be borne in mind, however, that the Homoeopathic Law and the employment of minute doses are two things quite independent of each other.

Hahnemann, when he commenced to practice homoeopathy employed the ordinary doses of the medicines whose pathogenesis was homoeopathic to the disease. Under treatment, but observing the frequent & dangerous reactions he was led gradually to diminish the dose until he arrived at the systematic plan, now adapted, in the preparation and use of Homoeopathic medicines — Thus a rem

edy, is homeopathic not. from the form it is administered, nor yet from the dose, but only from its relation to the disease.

Every Remedy is homeopathic to whom it stands in the relation of similarity to the disease for which it is to serve as a remedy. whether it be used in the 3rd development or at the 4000. or ~~in~~ undiluted; in grain. Example. Measles or Scarlatina doses. If any allopath finds he can cure by this means without degrading himself by the use of infinitesimal sugar pills as he imagines. let him do so. and he will if he follow the Law Similia

"similbus curantur". be as much a
homoeopath as Hahnemann himself
or any of his followers, but the thing,
is impossible, is absurd. It needs
but experiment to prove - oh, now
it fallacy & empty on the other
hand the beautiful truths in the
system now laid down as our
guide in Homoeopathic Practice -

Large doses are
opposed only to the peculiarities
of Hahnemann, not to the system
of Homoeopathy:

I have been frequently asked by
my Allopathic brethren, why de-
scend to the palpable absurdity
of infinitesimal doses, & the use

of those contemptible "little pills"
what can you accomplish with
them? You lean all in the hands
of Nature she perfects the cure
and you get the praise, for your
cures if you ever have any. are
Spontaneous?

Allow me to ask in reply why
it is that allopaths never are
so fortunate as to make Spontaneous
cures, but "as contraries" these
cases get well in spite of the Dr
and his medicine, (Thanks to a
kind Providence & a good consti-
tution) many times.

The experience of such painful &
dangerous aggravations, which are

never in any case necessary to a cure. led. Rahmann to employ minute doses.

Even theoretically we may aim in some measure. I think, at the possibility of minute doses effecting the economy, for in chemistry we see many analogous facts, I will mention one for illustration. which perhaps has some use for the same purpose. Many times yet it will never on this occasion.

A solution of common salt. in a million parts of water is detected by a very weak solution of nitrate of silver & iron separated. Copper from a solution containing only the

Fifty-millionth part of that salt.

We have also the extraordinary experiments of Spallanzani upon the impregnation of frog-sperm, by immersing it in water in which only ~~one~~ so much male sperm was dissolved as to give the $\frac{1}{2994687500}$ part of a grain to each egg.

If such very minute quantities act, can we not suppose equal by minute quantities of medicine affecting a much more susceptible machine, a living body, considered more delicate, by possessing at the time a peculiar susceptibility to the action of the medicine. . . It is a well known

on the other fact. that the organism
is much more susceptible of the
action of homo-geneous or similar
than hetero-geneous or dissimilar
stimuli

Mr Poppard from enormous quanti-
ties of wine & spirits are taken
without bad effects, whereas
a minute quantity would act vi-
olently if given to a patient la-
bouring under inflammatory fever
or Phrenitis.

Again we may apply a degree
of heat to the hand without the
least inconvenience, which were
it burned. would be intolerable
this fact anyone may test for himself.

It has been said
that "the susceptibility of the animal
frame of its specific irritant is somewhat
analogous to that of a chemical solu-
tion for its specific reagent."

"An inflamed Eye is disagreeably
impressed and the inflammation in-
creased by the ordinary light of
day — an inflamed Ear by the slight-
est noises, but the report of artillery
does not affect the inflamed Eye and
the dazzling light has no effect upon
the inflamed Ear". Thus it is that
Homoeopathy enters into similar views
as to the operation of their remedial
agents.

Many critics ascribe to us the folly

of practicing in the old method with
 our dilutions, & instead of an emetic
 for example, they say that we admin-
 ister the 3rd dilution of Tartar Emetic
 and purge with the 3rd dilution of
 Calap.

This results from inexcusable ignorance
 or intentional misrepresentation for we
 employ the dilutions of those remedies
 for removing the Cause or diarrhoea
 adapted to them, but not to provoke
 these symptoms for which purpose an
 other form & dose would be demand-
 ed.

To the opponents of Homoeopathy
 who endeavor to prove the inefficacy
 of our remedies, by the argument—

"That a healthy man may devour the contents of a whole pocket case of Homoeopathic Medicines without feeling the least effect" -

To this fact we reply, that the peculiarities of these Remedies are not to operate upon the healthy but only upon individuals whose disease bears to them a specific relation and affinity.

The ground work of all practice is a knowledge of the object to be treated, and also the remedy, these presupposes an accurate acquaintance with Physiology, pathology, Etiology & Chemi-ology. but it seems our allopaths

-ie. brethren, seem to think quite differently. Thus they say "all that a Homoeopath wants is symptoms & symptoms only."

The true Homoeopathic Physician in addition to scientific & professional attainments, much he possesses of circumspection & tact, a knowledge of the human heart, prudence & patience to be able to form to himself a true & complete image of the disease.

For the practical application of the Homoeopathic law, the first step necessary to be observed is forming to our selves "a correct image of the disease". To attain this object we are

to listen - write - interrogate - and lastly arrange.

The examination is first to bear upon the history of the case

Secondly upon the patient himself
And third upon the disease.

Hahnemann has recommended that every detail of the case should be committed to paper. - a practice which in proportion as it is carefully performed will facilitate the diagnosis as well as treatment.

The totality of the symptoms which characterizes a given case, or in other words the image of the disease being once committed to paper the most difficult part is accomplished. The physician ever of

-ter has this image before his eyes
 to serve as a basis to his treatment;
 especially when the disease is chron-
 ic - He can then study it in all
 of its parts & draw from it the char-
 acteristic marks in order to oppose
 these symptoms - that is to say to
 the disease itself - a remedy
 that is perfectly homoeopathic -
 whose choice has been decided
 on according to the nature of
 the morbid symptoms which it.

produces from its simple action upon
 the body. And if during the course
 of the treatment he inquires after
 the effects of the remedy, and the
 changes that have taken place in

The state of the patient, it only remains to obliterate from the group of Primitive Symptoms, those which have entirely disappeared, to note down those of which there are still some remains, and add the new ones which have supervened."

Arch. Arg. S 104.

The second necessary step in the application of the Homoeopathic Law is the careful selection of the remedy.

The selection of a Homoeopathic remedy is not a mere mechanical process, requiring only an effort of memory or a recourse to "reperto-
ries", but demands the greatest

comprehensive examination & presupposes an extensive acquaintance with medical science

The similarity of the remedy to the image of the disease must not only be in appearance, but similar if possible in cause. For example if the cause of the disease be an inflammation of the brain, a remedy is to be chosen which has a tendency to produce this pathological condition & if the exciting cause can be traced to an abuse, for instance of spirituous liquors, a remedy would be selected which approaches the nearest in its action to that of alcohol -

Again if in fear the patient complains of head-ache, we would be guided by the other symptoms in judging if this was idiopathic or if it was symptomatic. Keeping the other symptoms in view we might probably in the first instance give Belladonna, in the latter case Iacona, as in forming an image of the disease, we at first seek to discover the occasional cause, so in selecting the remedy we seek for a corresponding similarity.

Experience now enables us to choose medicines which are particularly adapted to a train of symptoms, arising from

certain causes for example. in
 neuralgia from cold or chill, the
 medicines which are indicated would
 be Sulcamara. - *Pur Tonica* - or per-
 haps. *Remite*, if it appeared after
 inter mittent fever. *Arenicum* - or
 China if from an abuse of Mer-
 cury. *Aurum*. - *Hyposulphuris*
 If to fear we would be led to
 consult. *Chamaemilla* *Pur Tonica*
 or *Pyonia*. if indigestion caus-
 ed by fat things. *Pulsatilla*

If the disease could be
 traced to. Venereal excess or loss
 of blood - China. *Pur T.* & *Phosacid*
 Rector knowledge greatly curtails
 the number of medicines among -

which to choose - but the further de-
 termination which particular remedy
 to select. out of several. which have
 these tendencies is governed. by the
 aggregate of the symptoms.

Before I close I would
 repeat again - in a few words. to the
 doses of Homoeopathic Medicines
 all must feel that the attempts
 as yet. made. to account for the
~~efficacy of minute doses~~, are
~~incomplete~~, but at the same
 time it is curious to think that
 we have to do. not with how they
act. that they do act we have
 proved. by a thousand experiments
 the truth of which cannot for a

moment. be. impugned.

Not those who deny what they cannot explain, we confess we are unable. to enter into discussion, but if they remain firm on such foundations of belief - we will grant the value of their decision, when they first prove to us satisfactory why three or four grains of Tartar Emetic excites vomiting.

Further these individuals to be consistent - should deny the power of contagion of malaria for the thousands fall, victims yearly to its influence, who has yet discovered their weight, measures, or composition, these things are inexpli-

-cable yet - who dares deny its power?

In mechanical philosophy and in chemistry, are we not contented with the empiric observation of phenomena, and do we not leave unattempted the modes by which they operate?

Like these the efficacy of minute doses, is at present an ultimate fact and beyond that we cannot proceed.

These are great mysteries which we must leave to the Great Author who intended the whole to answer the purposes in which we alone are interested, who has

wisely cleared to himself the nature
and control of first causes, and
who has thereby restricted our in-
quiries to the only useful objects
of knowledge, their various phe-
nomena.

Ever wishing, & praying
for the success of Homoeopathy
in general and of the Homoeopath-
ic Medical College of Philadel-
phia in particular. I remain
Gentlemen,

Very Sincerely & truly yours
Wm. Cressman M.D.